

# Representative Tom Allen's Comprehensive Small Business Initiative

## Fuel Cost Relief for Small Businesses

Small businesses in Maine have tight margins and if they are to survive, cannot absorb massive unexpected costs. Fuel and heating oil prices increased drastically this past year; these soaring energy costs have hit small businesses hard and threaten their profitability. In some cases the average prices were 30 to 60 percent higher than prices last year.

Representative Allen's Small Business Investment and Promotion Act (H.R. 2133) would provide a tax credit for small businesses, family farmers, and fishermen who use gasoline, diesel, natural gas, and heating oil. The bill would allow eligible businesses to claim a credit for any amount they spend over the price of fuel on Labor Day 2004, plus the rate of inflation. The bill also increases the IRS Standard Mileage Rate to 60 cents for those business owners who use their vehicles for business purposes.

Providing fuel cost relief to small businesses is a part of Rep. Allen's six-point plan to improve the small business climate in Maine and America.

*Please call Rep. Allen's office or visit the website for more information.*

[www.tomallen.house.gov](http://www.tomallen.house.gov)

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